Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of	**)**	
	)	
INQUIRY REGARDING CARRIER CURRENT SYSTEMS, INCLUDING BROADBAND OVER POWER LINE SYSTEMS	**)**	**ET Docket No. 03-104**

To: The Commission

REPLY TO COMMENTS OF THE ARRL, BY AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR JAMES A. NITZBERG, WX3B

I am writing to express my strong support for the American Radio Relay League (ARRL)'s comments related to ET Docket No 03-104 related to Carrier Current Systems, including Broadband over Power Line Systems.

The ARRL characterized BPL as "A Pandora's Box of Unprecedented proportions" - for good reason. As an amateur radio operator (and emergency communications provider on the HF frequencies under consideration) I am no stranger to the existing problems with line noise created by an antiquated power system – a problem today that many power providers still refuse to acknowledge. The infrastructure of the existing power grid is over 50 years old in many locations and is in desperate need of repair and improvement.

Adding Broadband RF over these same lines has the potential of greatly magnifying the existing problems – and turning every (served) street, and house into an antenna broadcasting noise over the HF and part of the VHF spectrum.

Part 15 of FCC regulations discuss not interfering with other radio services as a requirement – clearly the RF interference potential of this transmission mode violates that section.

Last Thursday, August 14th we witnessed a historic event in the USA: 50 million Customers lost power over a Multi-State state region. During that period – Emergency Communicators provided coordination, support and disaster assistance via Amateur Radio and other RF based communication services – on the very same HF and VHF frequencies that BPL is likely to interfere with.

Considering the order of magnitude of this power outage, and the fact that this could happen within our existing infrastructure – why consider stacking yet "another log on the fire" with BPL?

In summary – let's upgrade the existing power system so that it can correctly perform the function it was designed to do: provide reliable power to our country – with a minimum of downtime and interference.

The solution to broadband internet access and multi-media would be much better served with existing and enhanced Cable technologies, and "Fiber in the Home" options which are currently being developed.

Respectfully Submitted,

James A. Nitzberg WX3B